

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Applicant amends claims 1, 5 and 10. No new matter is added.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies shown to Applicant's representative by Examiner Thompson in the August 27 personal interview and September 8, 2004 telephone interview. Applicant's separate record of the substance of the interviews is incorporated into the following remarks. Specifically, Applicant amends claims 1, 5 and 10 to comply with the Examiner's helpful suggestions made during the interviews.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 10, and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent 5,796,865 to Aoyama et al. (hereinafter "Aoyama"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

As discussed during the August 27 personal interview and agreed during the September 8 telephone interview, Aoyama does not disclose, teach, or suggest "a correction coefficient calculator that produces a corrected image signal level curve by incrementally increasing a correction coefficient until, when the present image signal level curve is multiplied by the correction coefficient, at least a part of the present image signal level curve matches a part of the reference signal level curve," as recited in claim 1 or "producing a corrected image signal level curve by incrementally increasing a correction coefficient until, when the present image signal level curve is multiplied by the correction coefficient, at least a part of the present image signal level curve matches a part of the reference signal level curve," as recited in claim 10. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 2-8 and 11-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Aoyama in view of U.S. Patent 5,652,412 to Lazzouni et al. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

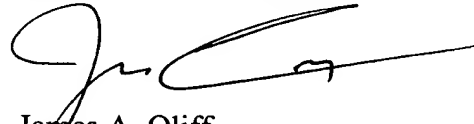
This rejection is premised upon the presumption that Aoyama discloses "a correction coefficient calculator that produces a corrected image signal level curve by incrementally increasing a correction coefficient until, when the present image signal level curve is multiplied by the correction coefficient, at least a part of the present image signal level curve matches a part of the reference signal level curve," as recited in claims 1 and 5 or "producing a corrected image signal level curve by increasing a correction coefficient until, when the present image signal level curve is multiplied by the correction coefficient, at least a part of the present image signal level curve matches a part of the reference signal level curve," as recited in claim 10.

Because, as discussed above, Aoyama does not disclose "a correction coefficient calculator that produces a corrected image signal level curve by incrementally increasing a correction coefficient until, when the present image signal level curve is multiplied by the correction coefficient, at least a part of the present image signal level curve matches a part of the reference signal level curve," as recited in claims 1 and 5 or "producing a corrected image signal level curve by increasing a correction coefficient until, when the present image signal level curve is multiplied by the correction coefficient, at least a part of the present image signal level curve matches a part of the reference signal level curve," as recited in claim 10, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Applicant earnestly solicits favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-13.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: September 17, 2004

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